

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 SS-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 ACDA-10 NEA-07 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 DRC-01

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P R 081917Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0326

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T SECTION 01*OF 02 BONN 02177

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL; VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

LIMDIS/NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NATO, PARM, GW, FR

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF NATO
POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING, MBFR AND EUROPEAN COM-
MUNITY

SUMMARY: FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL BRIEFED
THE AMBASSADOR FEB. 8 ON THIS WEEK'S EC POLITICAL
COMMITTEE (PC) MEETING IN BONN. THIS MESSAGE COVERS VAN
WELL'S COMMENTS ON THE PLANNED FEB. 28 NATO POLITICAL
DIRECTORS' LUNCHEON, ON MBFR AND REGARDING "THE STATE OF
THE COMMUNITY." SEPTELS (NOTAL) COVER THE EC DECLARA-
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TION EXERCISES AND THE MID EAST/AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. NATO POLITICAL DIRECTORS.

VAN WELL SAID THE SUBJECT OF NATO POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING WAS DISCUSSED AT A PC DINNER RATHER THAN DURING A FORMAL PC SESSION. THE SEVEN (EXCLUDING IRELAND) SUMMED UP THE ARGUMENTS FAVORING THE CONCEPT OF NATO POLITICAL DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND PRESSED THE FRENCH TO JOIN IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS. VAN WELL SAID THE 15 POLITICAL DIRECTORS COULD COMMENCE WITH A FREE DISCUSSION ON HOW TO IMPROVE NATO CONSULTATIONS AND MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER SUCH SUBJECTS AS CSCE AND MBFR, WHICH WERE ALREADY ON THE NATO TABLE. PUAUX HAD APPARENTLY DURING A BREAK CALLED DECOURCEL IN PARIS ON THE TOPIC BUT A DEFINITIVE FRENCH DECISION WAS NOT YET TAKEN ON WHETHER PUAUX OR ANOTHER FRENCH REP WOULD ATTEND THE BELGIAN LUNCHEON. RECALLING HIS PRIOR COMMENTS TO US ON THE SUBJECT, (REF A), VAN WELL SAID HE HOPED THE US WOULD REFRAIN AT THE PRESENT TIME FROM PRESSING PARIS TOO HARD AND FROM OUTLINING OVERLY DISTINCT VIEWS ON INSTITUTIONALIZATION OR SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION. VAN WELL BELIEVED A BIT OF TIME WAS NEEDED FOR THE GOF OPINION-MAKING PROCESS TO MATURE. HE INDICATED THAT THE RUMSFELD LETTER HAD ATTRACTED "A HORRIFIED FRENCH REACTION"; IN THIS CONNECTION, PUAUX HAD SPOKEN OF FRENCH OPPOSITION TO LONG TERM INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF NATO POLITICAL DIRECTOR MEETINGS. THE GERMANS AND OTHERS HAD SOUGHT TO CALM THESE FRENCH FEARS BUT THE MATTER OF FRENCH ATTENDANCE WAS LEFT UNRESOLVED.

2. MBFR.

VAN WELL SAID MBFR WAS ALSO DISCUSSED ON THE MARGINS OF THE PC MEETING. THE GERMANS AND OTHERS HAD CONTENDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DEFINE MORE

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USMISSION GENEVA
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LIMDIS/NOFORN

PRECISELY THOSE DANGERS WHICH THE FRENCH AND
OTHER PARTNERS SAW IN MBFR. VAN WELL SAID THE FRENCH
HAD AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO EXAMINE IN MORE
DETAIL THE PRECISE IMPLICATIONS OF MBFR FOR THE EC. AS
A RESULT, THE PC AGREED TO ESTABLISH AN EXPERT GROUP TO
CONSIDER "POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL
ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS FOR THE POLICY
OF THE NINE TO MOVE TOWARD A EUROPEAN UNION." VAN WELL
SAID HE HOPED THE EXPERT GROUP WOULD HAVE ITS FIRST
MEETING AT AN EARLY DATE; DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH
AND MBFR EXPERT RUTH WOULD REPRESENT THE FRG. VAN WELL
SAID THE GERMANS HOPE TO GET THE FRENCH TO "SHOW THEIR
HANDS AND TO ASSUME SOME CO-RESPONSIBILITY" FOR MBFR.
HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GERMANS ARE WELL AWARE THAT THE
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PRESENT FRENCH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO JOIN IN
THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

3. STATE OF THE COMMUNITY.

VAN WELL SAID THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD A LONG
DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY
AT A LUNCHEON ALSO ATTENDED BY EC COMMISSION DG
WELLENSTEIN; HE NOTED THAT IT HAS NOW BECOME A COMMON
PRACTICE FOR EC COMMISSION REPS TO BE PRESENT AT
PRACTICALLY ALL PC DISCUSSIONS. WELLENSTEIN HAD RE-
PORTED THAT THE EC COMMISSION BUREAUCRACY WAS VERY
DEPRESSED IN THE FACE OF MANY RECENT FAILURES AND WAS

CONCERNED THAT THE NEW FRENCH EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL COOPERATION WOULD AFFORD A LARGELY INTERGOVERNMENTAL CHARACTER TO IMPORTANT EC DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS. VAN WELL SAID THERE WAS A FEELING AT THE MEETING THAT THE POINT HAD BEEN REACHED WHERE THE DECISIONS THAT NEEDED TO BE TAKEN WERE OF SUCH A MAGNITUDE AND HIGH POLITICAL CHARACTER THAT THE POLITICAL UNIFICATION PROCESS WOULD FIRST HAVE TO PROGRESS FURTHER. SUCH POLITICAL PROGRESS WOULD THEN LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE DETAILED DECISIONS REQUIRED FROM THE EC MACHINERY IN BRUSSELS. AS AN EXAMPLE, VAN WELL CITED THE EC/ARAB STATE DIALOGUE, WHICH REQUIRED A POLITICAL BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT DETAILED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. HILLENBRAND

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